CITY COUNCIL ATLANTA, GEORGIA

02-0-0180

AN ORDINANCE BY: ZONING COMMITTEE

> ORDINANCE DESIGNATING EDWARD C. PETERS HOUSE (A/K/A IVY HALL), LOCATED AT 179 PONCE DE LEON AVENUE, NE, LAND LOT 49 OF THE 14TH DISTRICT OF FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA AND **CERTAIN** REAL PROPERTY ON WHICH IT IS LOCATED, TO THE **OVERLAY** DESIGNATION OF LANDMARK BUILDING OR SITE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 20 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA AND REZONING FROM C2/LBS (COMMERCIAL SERVICE/ LAND-MARK BUILDING OR SITE) TO C2/LBS (COMMERCIAL SERVICE/LANDMARK BUILDING OR SITE); TO REPEAL CONFLICTING LAWS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

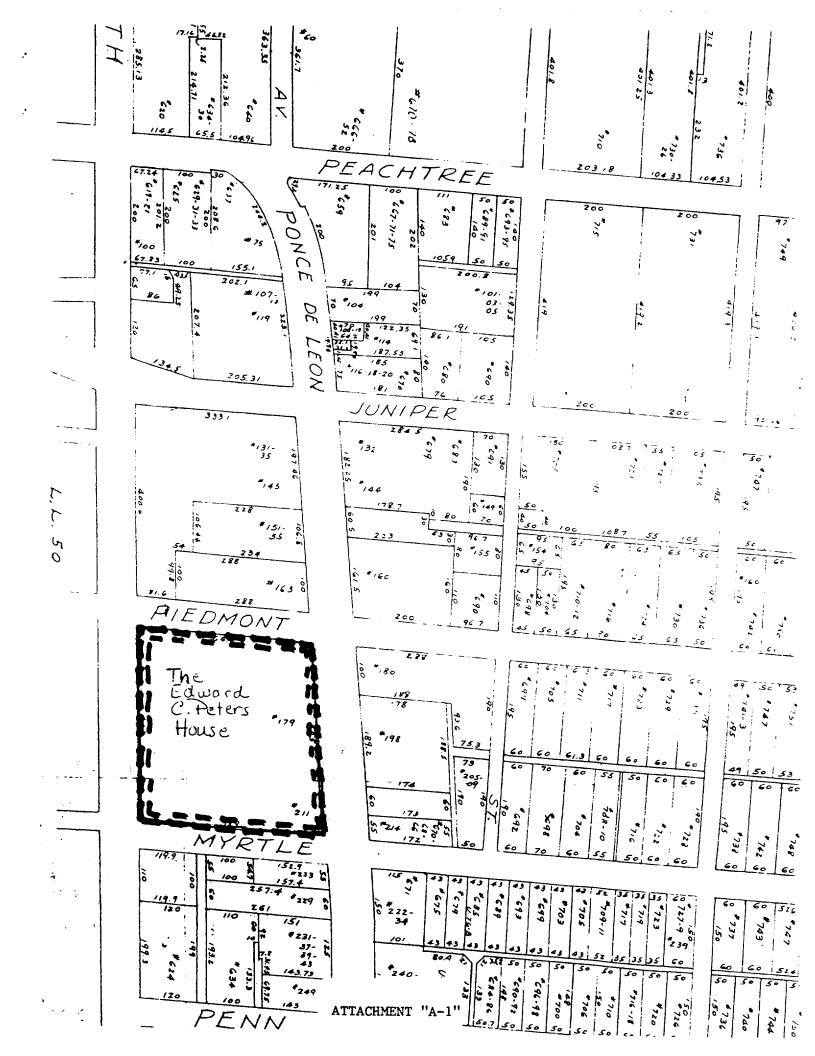
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, as follows:

SECTION 1. That the property known as the Edward C. Peters House (a/k/a Ivy Hall), located at 179 Ponce de Leon Avenue, NE, Land Lot 49 of the 14th District of Fulton County, Georgia, and more fully described as Attachment "A-1" to this ordinance, which attachment is incorporated herein, met the criteria for Landmark Building or Site as set forth in the Nomination Resolution of the Urban Design Commission attached hereto as Attachment "B" and incorporated herein, and is hereby determined to be a Landmark Building or Site pursuant to Chapter 20 of the 1982 Zoning Ordinance of the City of Atlanta, as amended.

SECTION 2. That the 1982 Zoning Ordinance of the City of Atlanta, as amended, is hereby further amended by designating said property described in Attachment "A-1" to the overlay zoning category "Landmark Building or Site" pursuant to Section 16-20.006 of the 1982 Zoning Ordinance of the City of Atlanta, as amended such that all parts of the site described by the metes and bounds description in Attachment "A-2" and any structures located thereon are so designated.

SECTION 3. That the 1982 Zoning Ordinance of the City of Atlanta, as amended, is hereby further amended so as to provide that the subject property bears, in addition to its C2 zoning classification, the overlay designation "Landmark Building or Site," which designation shall be officially abbreviated as "LBS" and shall immediately follow the abbreviation for the existing zoning classification. Said property is subject to all zoning regulations contained in Chapter 20 of the 1982 Zoning Ordinance, as amended, as well as any other applicable laws and regulations.

SECTION 4. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are repealed.

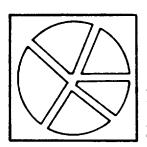


179 Ponce de Leon Avenue, N.E.

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All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lot 49 of the 14th District, Fulton County, Georgia, and being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pin at the intersection of the northern right-of-way of North Avenue and the eastern right-of-way of Piedmont Avenue; from said point of beginning run northerly along the eastern right-of-way of Piedmont Avenue three hundred sixty-one and nine-tenths (361.9) feet to the point of intersection of the eastern right-of-way of Piedmont Avenue and the southern right-of-way of Ponce de Leon Avenue; run thence easterly along the southern right-of-way of Ponce de Leon Avenue which forms an interior angle of 99 degrees 07 minutes 21 seconds with the preceding course, a distance of three hundred ninety-seven and fifty-three hundredths (397.53) feet to an iron pin located at the intersection of the southern right-of-way of Ponce de Leon Avenue and the western right-of-way of Myrtle Street; run thence southerly along the western right-ofway of Myrtle Street which forms an interior angle of 81 degrees 40 minutes 42 seconds with the preceding course a distance of three hundred eighty-eight and two tenths (388.2) feet to an iron pin located at the intersection of the western right-of-way of Myrtle Street and the northern right-of-way of North Avenue; run thence westerly along the northern right-of-way of North Avenue which forms an interior angle of 94 degrees 28 minutes 42 seconds with the preceding course a distance of three hundred ninety-nine and sixty-five hundredths (399.65) feet to the iron pin and point of beginning, being the entire city block within the City of Atlanta, Georgia, bounded by Ponce de Leon Avenue on the north, Myrtle Street on the east, North Avenue on the south and Piedmont Avenue on the west, and being improved property as per survey prepared by A. S. Giometti, Registered Land Surveyor, dated December 19, 1972.



ATLANTA URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION

ATLANTA CITY HALL 55 TRINITY AVENUE, SW SUITE 3400 ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30335-0331 (404) 330-6200

N-01-04

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Executive Director of the Atlanta Urban Design Commission initiated the nomination process by mailing the appropriate Notice of Intent to Nominate to the property owners of the EDWARD C. PETERS HOUSE (a/k/a Ivy Hall) pursuant to Subsection (b) of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances, Section 16-20.005 Nominations; and

Whereas, the Executive Director has caused to be conducted extensive research regarding this proposed nomination and has compiled a written report stating the findings and recommendations regarding the historic, architectural and cultural significance of said nomination pursuant to Subsection (d) of said code section, which report, Exhibit "A", is attached to this resolution and is hereby incorporated by this reference; and

Whereas, a public hearing was held by this Commission to consider said nomination after appropriate public notice was provided as required by Subsection (e) of said code section; and

Whereas, this Commission has reviewed and considered said designation report as well as all other testimony, documentation and other evidence presented to it, including the testimony of all interested members of the public and property owners pursuant to Subsection (e) of said code section; and

Now, therefore be it resolved by the Urban Design Commission of the City of Atlanta as follows:

Section 1. That the designation report prepared by the Executive Director of the Urban Design Commission is hereby adopted by this Commission and shall constitute the Findings of Fact upon which this nomination is based.

Section 2. That the Commission hereby determines that the Edward C. Peters House (a/k/a Ivy Hall), a map of which delineating all boundaries, as well as a metes and bounds description, of the property are attached hereto as Exhibit "B" and "C", hereby incorporated by this reference, is architecturally, historically, and culturally significant and is hereby determined to be eligible for designation to the category of Landmark Building or Site (LBS) as meeting at a minimum, the eligibility criteria set forth in Section 16-20.004(b)(1), specifically including subsections b. and c. of this code section. The Edward C. Peters House (a/k/a Ivy Hall) is located at 179 Ponce de Leon Avenue, NE, in Land Lot 49 of the 14th District of Fulton County, Georgia.

Section 3. That the Commission hereby further determines that said Edward C. Peters House (a/k/a Ivy Hall) meets the criteria set forth in Section 16-20.004(b)(2)a., specifically including those criteria in the following groups: Group I (1) (2) (3); Group II (1) (2) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11); and Group III (1) (2) (3).

Section 4. That the Commission having determined that the Edward C. Peters House (a/k/a Ivy Hall) meets or exceeds the criteria set forth herein, hereby nominates the Edward C. Peters House (a/k/a Ivy Hall) to the category of Landmark Building or Site (LBS), pursuant to Section 16-20.005(e)(3).

Section 5. That the Commission hereby directs the Executive Director to transmit this resolution including all supporting documentation to the Chair of the Zoning Committee of the Atlanta City Council, to the Commissioner of the Department of Planning, Development and Neighborhood Conservation, and to notify by first class mail the owners of Edward C. Peters House (a/k/a Ivy Hall).

Approved and nominated by the Atlanta Urban Design Commission on January 9, 2002.

Spencer Junhell/Chair

Atlanta Urban Design Commission

EDWARD C. PETERS HOUSE
(a/k/a Ivy Hall)
179 Ponce de Leon Avenue, NE
Fronting 405' on the south side of Ponce
de Leon Avenue, 389' on Myrtle Street,
403' on North Avenue and 345' on
Piedmont Avenue
14th District, Land Lot 49
Fulton County, City of Atlanta
Existing Zoning: C-2

N-01-04
Proposed Designation
Landmark Building or SiteExterior

Constructed: 1883 (remodeling and addition 1982)

Architect: Gottfried L. Norrman (addition Alan Saltzman)

SIGNIFICANCE/ANALYSIS

Noted Atlanta architect Gottfried L. Norrman designed the Edward C. Peters House, also known as Ivy Hall, in 1883. It is considered both the earliest and finest illustration of the Queen Anne architectural style in the South. Bordered by Piedmont Avenue, North Avenue, Ponce de Leon Avenue and Myrtle Street, the house and its surrounding site are arguably one of the most significant landmarks in the city. The northern two-thirds of the lot contains largely intact historic landscaping, including many specimen trees. The carriage house at the rear of the property was designed to complement the main house and is one of a very few surviving examples of domestic service architecture.

The Peters House also represents Atlanta's only tangible link to the Peters family, considered to be one of the founding families of the city. The Peters family shaped much Atlanta's history from influencing the city's name, to shaping its residential patterns, from assuaging the economic impacts of Reconstruction, to constructing the city's first professional sports stadium. The legacy of the Peters family in Atlanta is remarkable.

THE FAMILY

The first of the Peters family to be associated with Atlanta was Richard Peters (1805-1888), son of a well- known Philadelphia family. His grandfather, Judge Richard Peters, was Secretary of War during the American Revolution. After serving an apprenticeship with the noted architect William Strickland, Peters came to Georgia in 1835 as an assistant engineer on the newly organized Georgia Railroad and later became the superintendent. He first visited Atlanta (then called Marthasville) in 1844. In 1846 he moved here permanently. In Atlanta, Peters was involved in railroad construction and management, the primary business concern of the young city, and real estate investment. Realizing the significance the city would have as a transportation center, he suggested changing its provincial name. A business associate coined the name

Atlanta and Peters backed its usage. In a widely distributed company circular, Peters announced the completion of the rail line from Augusta to "Atlanta." Three months later the Georgia Legislature officially adopted the name.

Richard Peters was also an innovative businessman. Under his watch, the Georgia Railroad introduced the first sleeping car. Peters was also known as a leader in the field of scientific agriculture. On his experimental farm in Calhoun he raised livestock and cultivated grains and fruit trees. His nursery shipped seeds throughout the region.¹ In 1854, Peters along with two other businessman introduced Chinese Sorghum, also know as Chinese Sugar Cane, to Georgia. Peters later developed a technique for processing the sorghum into molasses.²

When Peters arrived in Atlanta, he began acquiring parcels of land. In approximately 1850 Peters purchased 200 acres of land north of downtown from William Ratteree for about \$5 an acre. This land was in addition to 200 acres he already owned. The land was to be used to provide timber for the steam engines at Peters' flour mill. The mill was never profitable and Peters sold the engines to the Confederate government. The land, however, proved to be a very good investment.

Although a Northerner by birth and opposed to succession, Peters supported the Confederacy during the Civil War as a blockade-runner. After the war, Peters worked for conciliation with Federal forces and used his Northern connections to lessen the harsh economic impact of Reconstruction on the city. With the assistance of Atlanta Constitution editor Henry Grady and Governor Henry McDaniel, Peters successfully lobbied the Legislature to move the state capitol from Milledgeville to Atlanta. Later Peters again teamed up with Grady to encourage the Legislature to establish a technical college to be located on the west side of the city on land owned by Peters.³ The result was the Georgia Institute of Technology.

In 1871 Peters and George W. Adair organized the Atlanta Street Railway Co., the city's first street railway. Initially horse-drawn and later electrically powered, the rail service opened up previously remote areas to residential settlement by the city's growing middle class. Both Peters and Adair owned the land to which the rails ran and thus profited from the ensuing development. In 1878 his Atlanta Street Railway Company's Peachtree line carried passengers north to Ponce de Leon Avenue. By 1893 that line ran as far north as Eighth Street traversing the entire length of Peter's property in land lot 49.

With the addition of a street railway, Peters' land became desirable for settlement. As a wedding gift, Richard Peters gave his son, Edward C. Peters, a parcel of land north of downtown on which to build a house. The construction of lvy Hall proved to be the lure that the elite needed to move their residences

¹ Midtown Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1998.

² Rambler

³ Paxton column Rambler September 2000.

northward. Peters began selling lots around his house at prices that attracted the upper middle class white Atlantans. Soon the Peters' home was surrounded with the other large homes of their peers.

Edward Peters inherited his father's entrepreneurial instincts and sense of civic duty. He took over from his father as president of the Atlanta Street Railroad Company. In order to further increase ridership on his trolleys, he built the first professional baseball field on land he owned near the intersection of Peachtree and North Avenue for the "Atlantas," Atlanta's semi-pro team. The younger Peters acted as president of the Peters' real-estate development company and was one of the founders and investors in the Exposition Cotton Mill. He was also influential in hosting Atlanta's International Exposition of 1881 and 1887. In the public service arena, Peters served as a member of the Atlanta City Council and was later an Alderman.

After Edward Peters' death in 1937, Ivy Hall passed on to his son Wimberly, and then to Wimberly's daughter Lucille, who lived in the house until her death in 1970. The house was sold at that time and later reopened as the Mansion Restaurant. It operated as a restaurant until the late 1990s.

THE EDWARD C. PETERS HOUSE

The Edward C. Peters House is an exceptionally well-preserved two-and-one-half-story red brick mansion. Stylistically, its 1883 design by Gottfried L. Norrman is High Victorian Queen Anne with elements that strongly relate it to the Shingle Style that was popular in the eastern United States in this period. Ivy Hall, as it was known at the time, was most likely the first house in Atlanta to fully embody the Queen Anne style, and one of the earliest Queen Anne houses in the country. The house is only eight years younger than H.H. Richardson's Watts Sherman House (1875), which is acknowledged as the first house built in the Queen Anne style. The house is contemporary with other Queen Anne masterpieces such as the Isaac Bell House (1883) by McKim Mead and White, and the Stoughton House (1883) by H.H. Richardson. The Peters house should not be considered a provincial attempt to mimic popular Northeastern styles, but a contemporary masterpiece.⁴

The Edward Peters House was conceived as a free standing villa, isolated within in its setting. The house was sited on an elevated block owned by Peters and bound by Piedmont Avenue (originally known as Calhoun), North Avenue, Ponce de Leon Avenue and Myrtle Street. These property boundaries date from at least 1892.⁵ The continuity of the property's boundaries over time is uncommon. The northern portion of the lot contains historic landscape features with are largely intact and represent a "mature" Victorian landscape plan, including many specimen trees.

⁵ Birds-Eye Map of Atlanta.

Boyd Coons, "Fact Sheet, the Peters House."

With the design of the Peters House, Norrman effectively "breaks the box," creating an irregularly massed house which reaches out to embrace the landscape. Entrance is gained to the house from the port-cochere. Varied interior spaces are quite natural for a house of this type, and these extend out onto verandas or piazzas on the west and north facades. The philosophy of the design of lvy Hall and the Queen Anne aesthetic is in harmony with the New South progressive optimism.

The exterior of the house has a richly textured surface with a range of materials, but is deeply respectful of the asymmetrical articulation of mass and structure. This is particularly evident in the Rundbogen style of the port cochere and the planar massing of the brick of the first floor walls. The second floor is treated with the half-timbering over brick. The delineation of the first and second floors is handled with a spandrel band of terra cotta shingles. The carved verge boards, sunflower motifs, and Japanese-influenced wood balustrades testify to the sophisticated eye of the designer.⁶

Gottfried Norrman has amplified the picturesquness of the Queen Anne style with the Peters House. The many varied rooflines and gables and deep porches which encircle the house create one of the finest examples of this style in the American South.

In the early 1973 the house was remolded to accommodate the Mansion Restaurant. During the renovation very little of the structure was altered. A gazebo was added along with a modern kitchen abutting the house.

The adjacent wood-framed, two-story carriage house, contemporary with the main house, exists on the southeast corner of the lot. This is an extremely rare and unique surviving example of domestic service building architecture. The social interconnectedness of the carriage house and the main house cannot be overlooked. The Peters family did not dwell alone in Ivy Hall and the carriage house represents the space most closely tied with the cadre of domestic workers who serviced the house. Architecturally the carriage house, swathed in ornamental shingles, is a perfect complement to Ivy Hall. The varied rooflines and projecting gables and dormers emulate the main house. Despite the neglected appearance of this structure due to overgrown vegetation, a collapsed modern 2'x4' structure in front of the building and the apparent recent failure of the rolled roofing, the overall structure of this building appears to be solid.

GOTTFRIED LEONARD NORRMAN

The well-respected architect Gottfried L. Norrman (1846-1909) is responsible for the eclectic design of the Peters house. Norrman, born in Sweden and educated at the University of Copenhagen and at a German technical school, came to

⁶ Richard Guy Wilson to Atlanta Preservation Center, July 14, 2001; in Atlanta Preservation Center Peters House File.

Atlanta around 1880. His first office was located in the Candler Building with partner M.B. Weed.

Although little is known of his work prior to his arrival in Atlanta, he won the prestigious commission of the buildings at Atlanta's International Exposition of 1881. The exhibition was conceived as the inauguration of Atlanta's new progressive image (or "New South" period) and the design of the buildings successfully embodied this philosophy. The centerpiece of the exposition was the great hall, a Greek cross-shaped building with arms 720 feet in length with arms extending 96 feet. In addition to the Exhibition's great hall, Norman designed several other structures including a restaurant, police station, press pavilion, and other exhibition halls. The commission of the Exposition buildings solidified Norman's reputation as a highly sought-after architect.

Prior to designing the Peters House, Norrman designed the mill buildings for the Exposition Cotton Mills Company, of which Peters was an investor. Peters' familiarity with Norrman undoubtedly influenced the selection of Norrman to design his personal residence.

At the height of Norrman's thirty-year career in Atlanta, he was considered one of the South's leading architects. He was a prolific designer and his institutional and residential buildings illustrated his proficiency with the major styles of the day. Some of Norrman's most outstanding work includes: the Queen Anne style Gate City National Bank (demolished, 1884) the Hirsch Building on Whitehall (demolished), the John Silvey Co. Building on Marietta Street (demolished), the First Baptist Church of Atlanta (1904, demolished), Saint Luke's Episcopal Church (1883, demolished) Stone Hall (Fountain Hall) at Morris Brown College (1882), Inman Park Elementary School (1892), the Palmer House Apartments (1912), Pediatric Ward of Grady Hospital, the First Methodist Church of Decatur, the Armstrong Hotel in Rome, Georgia, and the Windsor Hotel (1893), YMCA (1895), City Hall and Water Tower (1891) all in Americus, Georgia and the Henry Street School (1893) in Savannah. In 1893, he designed the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Building at the southwest comer of Pryor and Mitchell Streets in the "Chicago/commercial" style exemplified by Louis Sullivan. Four years later, his design for Atlanta's first Christian Science Church was described in a 1902 publication as a "...beautiful white structure in the classic architecture of a Grecian temple, surmounted by a graceful dome." Perhaps his most fanciful creation was the Hebrew Orphans' Home, (demolished, 1974) which foreshadowed the exotic nature of the Fox Theatre. This large institution featured a minaret clock tower, onion domes, horseshoe arches, ornamental tracery, and terra cotta columns.8

⁸ Palmer House Atlanta Landmark Nomination, Atlanta Urban Design Commission.

⁷ Thomas Martin, *Atlanta and Its Builders*, p. 585-586; in Palmer House Landmark Nomination, Atlanta Urban Design Commission.

Although Norrman is best known for his institutional buildings, he designed several notable residences in addition to Ivy Hall. Some examples include the Woodruff/Burnes House in Inman Park, the Reynolds/Aldredge house and Dargan/Crosby house on Piedmont Avenue in Midtown, and the John Silvey house on Marietta Street (reassembled elsewhere.)

At the end of Norrman's career, shortly before his untimely death, Norrman allowed the young architects J. Neel Reid and Hal Fitzgerald Hentz to join his established practice, thus making a literal translation from the Queen Anne and free Classical styles of his earlier work to the classical ecclectism for which Hentz and Reid were known.

Gottfried Norrman was an architect of importance both locally and regionally. His association with the Atlanta expositions of 1881 and 1887 connect him with national and events. In 1885, he was made an associate member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), becoming a fellow in 1897. In 1906, he was a charter member of the Georgia Chapter of AIA and that organization's first vice-president. On several occasions, his work was published in the American Architect and Building News. An 1892-93 series of books on world fair cities and their prominent citizens stated of Norrman that "... no architect in the South has designed so many handsome public and private buildings." A contemporary and competitor, Thomas H. Morgan, stated of Norrman "... by his culture, integrity of character and ability as an architect, he made friends easily, retained them, and soon became a leader in the profession and the social life of the city."

CRITERIA

GROUP I (1) (2) (3)
GROUP II (1) (2) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11)
GROUP III (1) (2) (3)

FINDINGS

The proposed nomination of the Edward C. Peters House (a/k/a Ivy Hall) meets the above-referenced specific criteria, as well as the minimum criteria for a Landmark Building or site as set out in Section 16-20.004 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Atlanta.

Nomination, Atlanta Urban Design Commission.

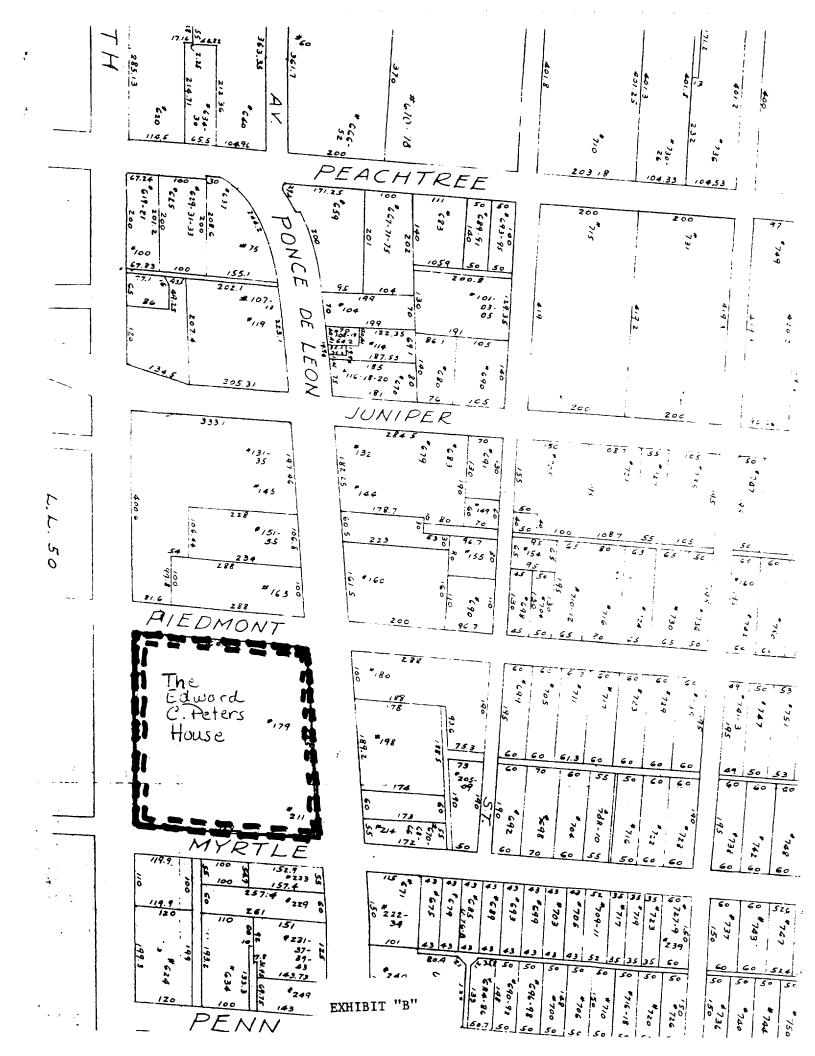
10 The Atlanta Historical Bulletin, September 1943, p. 93; in Palmer House Landmark Nomination, Atlanta Urban Design Commission.

⁹ City of Atlanta: A Descriptive, Historical and Industrial Review of the Gateway City of the South: Being the World's Fair Series On Great American Cities, p. 107-108; in Palmer House Landmark Nomination, Atlanta Urban Design Commission.

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179 Ponce de Leon Avenue, N.E.

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